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Dated: 1/5/04

Signature: [Signature]
Jaime Baquero

Docket No.: 554912000200

(PATENT)

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Patent Application of:

Mark D. VELLIGAN, et al.

Application No.: 10/026,963

Filed: December 27, 2001

For: POLYMIDE ANALOGS

MAIL STOP AF

Group Art Unit: 1626

Examiner: S. Wright

Confirmation No.: 7363

REPLY AND AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1,116(B) TRANSMITTAL

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Reply and Amendment is responsive to the final Office Action dated November 3, 2003 (Paper No. 1003), enclosed, enclosed please find:

☒ Acknowledgment Postcard.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 1.17 and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1339. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 5, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By [Signature]
Julie L. Heinrich, Ph.D.

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Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Reply and Amendment is responsive to the final Office Action dated November 3, 2003 (Paper No. 1003) for which a response is due on February 3, 2004. Notwithstanding this due date, this Reply and Amendment is being filed on or before the expiration of the 2 month period (January 3, 2004 -- which is a Saturday and, accordingly, the two month period expires on Monday, January 5, 2004).

In response to this final Office Action, entry of the following amendments pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b) is earnestly solicited.